

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 9-18, 26, and 27 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-8, 19, and 25 have been withdrawn without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein as drawn to non-elected inventions. Claim 20 has been amended to be an independent claim through incorporation of the limitations of claim 9. New claims 28-36 have been added. Support for new claims 28-36 can be found throughout the specification, for example, in paragraph 0015 on page 5, in paragraphs 0041 and 0042 on pages 11 and 12, in Example 10 on page 19, and in claims 10, 11 and 16-18 as originally filed. No new matter has been added by way of any claim amendments or presentation of new claims. Claims 20-24 and 28-36 are now pending in the present application. Entry of these amendments to the claims is respectfully requested prior to the further substantive examination of this application on its merits.

Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. § 121

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a method of making a cell culture environment, classified in class 435, subclass 174;
- II. Claims 9-18, drawn to a cell culture environment and array comprised by the environment, classified in class 435, subclass 325;
- III. Claim 19, drawn to a method of culturing cells, classified in class 435, subclass 395;
- IV. Claims 20-24, drawn to a method of assaying cellular function, classified in class 435, subclass 29;
- V. Claim 25, drawn to a method of making a cell-based transplant, classified in class 424, subclass 423; and
- VI. Claims 26 and 27, drawn to a kit, classified in class 435, subclass 283.1.

Applicants elect Group IV (claims 20-24), without traverse. Applicants submit that new claims 28-36, which depend from elected claim 20, also belong in Group IV, and respectfully request that these claims be examined along with elected claims 20-24.

Appl No.: 10/673,438
Amdt. dated June 13, 2006
Reply to Restriction Requirement of March 16, 2006

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

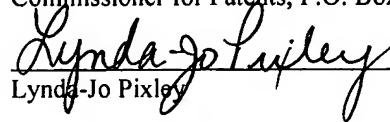


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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Lynda-Jo Pixley